

# City of Takoma Park, Maryland



Office of the Mayor

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7500 Maple Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

**The Honorable Kathryn H. Porter, Mayor**

November 7, 2007

Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair  
Board of Directors  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
600 Fifth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Hewlett:

At the WMATA Board meeting of October 25, 2007, you moved that action on the Takoma Metro station item be postponed for two weeks. In making this motion, you indicated that concerns raised by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and others regarding the proposed changes to the transit facilities at the station had not been addressed by WMATA staff. You also indicated that Governor O'Malley felt that there should be an opportunity to have these issues addressed. A decision to postpone action on the Takoma Metro proposal until November 8 was approved.

The City of Takoma Park thanks the Board for this vote. We looked forward to seeing constructive solutions to the identified problems discussed during this two week period. It was thought that WMATA staff might modify their recommendations to the Board as a result of those discussions, resulting in improved transit facilities at the Takoma Metro station.

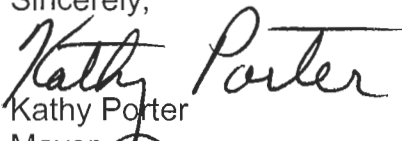
On Monday, November 5, staff from WMATA met with staff from Montgomery County, the City of Takoma Park, and Congressman Chris Van Hollen's office regarding the EYA plan for the Takoma Metro station. Incredibly, no new information was presented by WMATA staff regarding how to address the County Executive's concerns. In addition, WMATA staff indicated that they were not at the table to consider any further changes because they felt they had not been directed to do so by the Board. When asked what they thought the two week delay was for, they stated that it was an opportunity for the County to consider the three changes included in the October 24 letter from WMATA Assistant General Manager Nat Bottigheimer to Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation Director Art Holmes. The County Executive, however, had already indicated that the three minor changes were unresponsive to the County's concerns before the October 25 Board meeting.

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We want the record to show that Montgomery County and the City of Takoma Park were prepared to work constructively with WMATA staff on a functional and safe transit design for the Takoma Metro station. We ask that the WMATA Board not move forward with the EYA plan at this board meeting, but instead give specific direction to WMATA staff to work with Montgomery County, the City of Takoma Park, and the District of Columbia on a design for the Takoma Metro station's transit facilities that meets community transit needs and functions well for bus operators. It is important that these issues are addressed before any land sale occurs.

Since it is apparent that further Board action is needed to ensure that constructive work actually occurs, please take the steps needed to allow that coordination to proceed. We thank you for your willingness to discuss with us these very important concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy Porter  
Mayor

cc: Members, WMATA Board of Directors  
John Catoe, WMATA General Manager  
Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive  
Rep. Chris Van Hollen